

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington,. D.C. 20231

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the examiner consider and cite of record the references listed on the attached, copies of which are submitted herewith. Also submitted herewith is a copy of the International Search Report dated November 21, 2000 in which four (4) of the references submitted here were cited.

Also submitted here is a copy of EP 905517 as an English language equivalent of Japanese Kokai 10-253632. A statement of the relevance of this reference is also found at page 3, lines 3-24 of applicants' specification.

Also submitted herewith are copies of Japanese Kokai 2-532788 and U.S. 5,141,850 both of which are believed to be equivalents of Japanese Publication No. 5-506095, also cited in the International Search Report of November 21, 2000. Accordingly, U.S. 5,141,850 is considered

to be an English language equivalent of JP 5-506095. Further, a statement of the relevance of the reference (referring to the equivalent Japanese Publication 2-532788) is presented at page 2, line 8 to page 3, line 2 of applicants' specification.

Published English language abstracts are also provided for JP 9-229938, JP 4-216465, JP 8-304397 and JP 8-029422.

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George A. Loud Reg. No. 25,814

Dated: March 20, 2002

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